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August 16, 2018

Governor Ralph Northam
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam,

Attached please find a copy of the recommendations for nuclear energy to be included in the 2018 Virginia Energy Plan. In line with the Energy Plan's mission to advance Virginia's energy objectives (Va. Code § 67-101), the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) and the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC) have drafted these recommendations to specifically address the long-term goals of the Commonwealth.

The industry recommendations fall in three major categories:

- workforce training and education improvements that will allow Virginia companies to attract and retain skilled employees
- opportunities for funding to grow Virginia's research capacity in advanced nuclear technologies
- investment in next-gen energy through attraction and development of a small modular reactor (SMR) project in Virginia

We feel it is important that the Energy Plan include these policy priorities to further enhance the state's academic, generation, and defense nuclear capabilities. We invite you to review these recommendations and include them in the plan. Should you want to discuss these recommendations in more detail, we would be happy to visit with you or your staff to discuss them.

Thanks for your commitment to Virginia and your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Alireza Haghighat, PhD
VNEC Nonprofit Chairman
Professor
Director of Nuclear Engineering Program
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